

Melinda Gates

Don't be afraid to embrace imperfections, says the author and philanthropist.



Whenever you head into a meeting, you obviously need to know your material, but I realized early on that, like so many women, I have a perfectionist streak. I thought I needed to have every single detail stored in my head, but that meant I couldn't listen as well to what others were saying. Whereas now, if I bring my whole self—imperfections and all—maybe I'll miss a number here or there, or someone will ask me something that I have to look up later, but that's OK. We don't have to be perfect, and listening is key to how we learn.

Get Gates' new book, *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World*, out now.

OUTTAKES

DOES NOT COMPUTE

The number of women graduating with computer science degrees has gone down since I was in college. We need more women with seats at the table, creating companies and making decisions on what's going into products.

TRAVEL MUST-HAVE

I am a nut about drinking water and love my S'well bottle because it can keep things hot or cold.

ROLE MODEL

I would have loved to have met Mother Teresa. If you go back and read her letters, she had a ton of doubt, and yet she started somewhere.